

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01222 201537Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
/055 W

-----081519 210705Z /13

R 201535Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4389
ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 01222

USEEC, USIAC

FOR IEU/COHEN AND IOP/R/GORDER

STATE FOR EUR/RPE AND INR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN OPINION ON EUROPE

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS JUST PUBLISHED THE FINDINGS
OF THE LATEST "EURO-BAROMETER" OPINION POLL CARRIED OUT
IN THE NINE COMMUNITY COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE END OF 1977.

WITH THE ELECTION BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT LOOMING ON THE HORIZON, SEVEN OUT OF TEN
(72) OF THOSE INTERVIEWED FAVORED SUCH DIRECT ELECTIONS.
SUPPORT WAS STRONGEST IN ITALY (79), THE NETHERLANDS
(77), LUXEMBOURG (76) AND IRELAND (74). DENMARK WAS
THE LEAST ENTHUSIASTIC, WITH 54 FAVORABLE AND 29
AGAINST DIRECT ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH EVEN HERE THE IDEA
IS BECOMING MORE POPULAR: IN A PREVIOUS SURVEY ONLY 44
OF THE DANES WERE IN FAVOR. IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHERE
PARLIAMENT RECENTLY ACTED TO DELAY DIRECT EUROPEAN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01222 201537Z

ELECTIONS, 69 WERE FOR AND ONLY 18 WERE OPPOSED.

DESPITE THIS RATHER WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE
OF DIRECT ELECTIONS, ONLY HALF OF THOSE QUESTIONED
VIEWED THE ELECTIONS AS "AN EVENT WITH IMPORTANT
CONSEQUENCES WHICH IS CERTAIN TO MAKE EUROPE MORE
POLITICALLY UNIFIED." ONE IN THREE CONSIDERED IT "AN

UNIMPORTANT EVENT". PEOPLE IN ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS ATTACHED THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE ELECTIONS. THE GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY AND THE "COMMON MARKET" REMAINS FOR THE MOST PART FAVORABLE: 56 REGARDED IT AS "A GOOD THING" AND ONLY 14 AS "A BAD THING". THE DUTCH (74), THE LUXEMBOURGERS (73) AND THE ITALIANS (70) ARE THE MOST FAVORABLE. POSITIVE OPINIONS JUST BARELY PREDOMINATED IN DENMARK (37 FOR WITH 33 AGAINST), WHILE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 35 WERE FOR AND 37 AGAINST. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BRITISH SEEMED TO TAKE A MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE FUTURE, FOR 48 EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WOULD BE A GOOD THING FOR THEIR COUNTRY OVER THE NEXT TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS; 26 THOUGHT OTHERWISE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME A QUESTION WAS ASKED ON THE POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP OF GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR OUT OF TEN PERSONS INTERVIEWED FELT THAT IT WOULD BE A "A GOOD THING": GREECE (32 FOR, 15 AGAINST), PORTUGAL (33 FOR, 17 AGAINST) AND SPAIN (39 FOR, 16 AGAINST). SUPPORT FOR NEW MEMBERS WAS STRONGEST IN GERMANY AND ITALY, WHILE THE DANES EXPRESSED MOST RESERVATIONS.

THE LATEST EURO-BAROMETER ALSO INCLUDED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON THE "GENERAL MOOD" OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01222 201537Z

54 OF THOSE INTERVIEWED FELT THAT LIVING CONDITIONS WOULD IMPROVE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THE IRISH (73) WERE THE MOST OPTIMISTIC, FOLLOWED BY THE BRITISH (65) AND THE GERMANS (57), WHILE THE DUTCH WERE THE LEAST OPTIMISTIC (32, WITH 26 BELIEVING THAT THINGS WOULD GET WORSE).

THE RISK OF INCREASED SOCIAL TENSIONS LEADING TO CIVIL DISORDER WITHIN THE NEXT TEN YEARS WAS CONSIDERED STRONGER THAN THE RISK OF A THIRD WORLD WAR: 54 FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL DISORDER, WHILE 24 FELT THAT A WORLD WAR WAS MORE LIKELY TO BREAK OUT THAN NOT.

THE DEGREE OF SATISFACTION WITH "THE WAY DEMOCRACY WORKS" VARIES GREATLY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, WITH SATISFACTION MOST PREVALENT AMONG THE GERMANS (78 VERSUS 18 DISSATISFIED), AND LEAST AMONG THE ITALIANS (19 SATISFIED, 78 DISSATISFIED).

PUBLIC OPINION REGARDING THE ECOLOGIST MOVEMENTS IS OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE IN ALL COUNTIES: ON AVERAGE 78 OF THOSE INTERVIEWED RATED THEM HIGHLY AS AGAINST ONLY

13 WHO DID NOT. BY CONTRAST, FEMINIST MOVEMENTS WERE
RATED MUCH LESS HIGHLY BY MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE: 46 HAD A
GOOD OPINION OF THEM AND 38 A POOR OPINION. THERE
WAS LITTLE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REACTIONS
OF THE TWO SEXES. MONSEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE01222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0426
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780142/aaaabjaa.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f28c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3743421
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN OPINION ON EUROPE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS JUST PUBLISHED THE FINDINGS OF THE LATEST "EURO-BAROMETER" OPINION POLL CARRIE
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, PGOV, BE
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f28c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014